

Sadler's Memoirs :
OR, THE
HISTORY
OF THE
Life and Death
Of that Famous Thief
THOMAS SADLER.

Giving a True Account of his being Fifteen times
in the Goal of Newgate, and a Relation of
his most Notorious Pranks in City and
Country.

With a particular Description of the manner of
his Robbing the Lord High Chancellor of
England; For which he was Condemned
to Dye, and Executed at Tyburn on
Friday the Sixteenth of March.

With Allowance, Ro. L'Estrange.

Printed for P. Brooker, in Westminfield.

THE HISTORY OF THE
LIFE OF

THOMAS SAUNDERS

OF THE TOWN OF
SAUNDERS

By George The Account of his Life and
the God of his Soul, and the
History of his Works in the

World, and the History of his
Life, and the History of his
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Sadlers Memoires.

OR,

the History of the Life and Death of that Famous Thief Thomas Sadler.

CHAP. I.

Of Sadlers Birth and Education.

TO be well descended, doubles the glory of the Vertuous, but increaseth the shame of the vicious and degenerate; And in this regard our unhappy Sadler was happy: the scandal of his crimes reach'd little further than his Person; Though he brought himself to an untimely and ignominious end; yet we cannot say it was any mighty disgrace to his Family, for his birth was so obscure, that we are beholding to Philosophy to prove that ever he had a Father, or had any Relation

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with; yet never was Master of; though often allowed the favour of his Book; which in the Colledge of Newgate he leane to Cant by Rote, though in truth he was not able to distinguish a Letter.

CHAP. II.

How Sadler was put to the Trade of Brick-making, and by what means he came first acquainted with Thieves.

THE History of our Grand Thiefs Childhood (like that of the Worlds Infancy) is either unknown or wrapt up in Fables; Some stick not to report that at Four Years of Age he understood the Profound Mysteries of Pockerdying, and that before he was Seven Years Old, none of the Neighbours durst trust their Poultry for fear of him without Convoy. But waving those Rumors, which have nothing to Vouch for their Credit, but the Idle Breath, and Tattling Sillipians of the Vulgar; This is certain, That when he became Capable of Work

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ing, he was put forth to the Honest Laborious
Trade of Brickmaking; which he followed for two
or three years after the Dreadful Fire in Sixty
Six; both at Knights-bridge, Soe-hoe, and o-
ther places near the Town; and had gain'd the
Creditable Repure of a Civil Industrious Young-
man; till happening into the unhappie Acquaintance
of a Lewd Woman in St. Gileses, she seduc'd him
to the Expence of his Money, and neglect of his
business; and brought him acquainted with a Gang of
thieves; who observing him to be a brisk bold fel-
low fit for their turn, soon entred him into their So-
ciety; but not till he had given a Notable proof of his
Dexterity and aptness for the Calling; which was as
follows: This crew had observ'd an old Fellow
that kept an Ale-house near Bedford-Bury, and
were satisfi'd he had good store of money, but
could never understand where he laid it; For
at several times they had Juted most of his
Closets and Chests, but could not meet with a-
ny thing Considerable; Sadler undertakes to dis-
cover this Concealed Treasure, and by this Stra-
tagem effects it; Going to Drink there one Evening,
he slips up Stairs and sets the Hangings on Fire; pre-
sent

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sently the Alarum is given, and he pretends to be one of the foremost in quenching it, though in truth all his business was to watch the old Dads Motions; whom he observ'd to run very surprizedly to the house of Office up three pair of stairs; The Combustion was quickly over, without much Damage at present, though the Consequence was loss enough; For three or four Nights after, Sadler and his Confederates get into the House, and taking up the Boards of the House of Office, under the seat find a kind of C cupboard, and therein three Hundred Pound Baggs plentifully cramb'd with ready White; and conceiving it very unfit such Precious Metall should be laid up so slovenly, took speedy care to remove it to a better Lodging; leaving in the place nothing but a small pair of Horns, and a large Halber; which being discover'd about a Month after by the Reverend Miler, he decently made use of the last, not being willing to be at the charge of keeping his Soul after he had lost his Money; Whilst in the meantime Sadlers Ingenuity was much applauded by his Accomplices; and thenceforwards they all look'd upon him as a very hopeful Brother.

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CHAP. III.

How Sadler having committed Burglary, strange-
ly made his Escape like a Ghost.

Being thus Flush'd and Season'd in Ro-
guery, he was fit to attempt any mis-
chief; By I know not what Hellish Intelligence
he was inform'd of a great Quantity of Money
Plate, and Riches in a Houle in St. Martins in
the Fields; but it was to notably fortified with
flout Locks, strong Bolts, able Window-shuts
&c. That he could not by the Mediation of
Mistress Betty, the aid of Monsieur Le Crown, nor
any the like Common Arts, force an entrance;
whereupon resolving to enter this Inchan-
ted Castle whatever it cost him, he takes a Lodg-
ing at the next Door, and in the Night gets
on the Top of the designed houle, and with
a Rope lets himself down the Chimney into a
Garret; then Rummaging what Room he
thought fit, and pretty well Loaden with Plate
and other portable Goods of Value, he

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My honest Brother.

pairs to the Door, but perceives there was no getting forth; For the Master of the House always used to have the Key carried up into his Chamber; In this perplexity up Starts again he goes, hoping to escape at some Window; but made such a noise, that he awakened some of the Family, so that the whole House rang with the lamentable Outcry; *Thou art, Thou art!* What to do he knew not; till the Devil and his own Natural Impudence suggested a Device; which was, Spring false Lances into the Top of a Chest of Drawers, he claps a Sheet all over him, and so boldly walks into the Gentlemen's Chamber, who were ready with Swords and Pistols to receive him; but at his approach, concluding it a Spirit, were so frighted, that he could not make use of a Letter of them; so that Sadlen and his troop interrupting, march'd by him, and opening the Window, pass'd into that Bedchamber, where during the Sheet, he glid from all his Viewers; the Servants and knaves off with him, being misinform'd; while the honest Gentleman himself, going to the door, and making up his mind to defend him self bravely against the evil Spirit, as any House could be haunted with a

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yond *Halsbury* and crying her last streptuous
 left her shortly after this he was apprehend-
 ed for stealing a silver Tankard in Sir John
 Iffingtons mill for the same was sent thither in
 the said Eora Procession of the Old Bayliff the
 year 1601. This said Six hundred and seven-
 ty. This the very same Session was he again sent
 thither for stealing a black coat in the Parish
 Church; not being impudently there professing
 saying in open Court on his Tryall. That the
 Court should have marked it with a Red Iron
 For this he was ordered to be committed; that
 by committal he might get off; and immedi-
 ately fell to his death. This he here in England
 is my good friend *Wm. P. H. V.* *Wm. P. H. V.*
 This said Six hundred and seventy. This the
 year 1601. This the year 1601. This the year 1601.
 Although said had no other advantages of
 value in the house; but naturally besides some
 by possession; had he feared upon his wealth
 would have been suddenly; for was his mind
 so to do; but although suffering or carrying on
 said said said said; although which that
 said said said; which were said; which self
 would said; which were said; which self

(umph) was none of the least remarkable.
 Hearing of a kind of a Doctor of a good Es-
 tate about Hoxton, that used to undertake the
 cure of Madmen, he repair'd to him in good
 garb like a Country Gentleman, and tells him
 'twas his misfortune to have a dear friend and
 Relation of his somewhat disordered with
 melancholly; and that he was advis'd to seek
 for help. The Doctor inquires how the party
 was taken; Upon which Saller tells him off a
 most sorry, that he never saw'd, but only sick'd
 a little idle now and then, and then he feared it
 proceeded from seeing his heart too much on
 the World; For, says he, he is always talking of
 Plate and Money, and will please people here &
 there, and will then to pay him, &c. In short,
 Mr. Doctor for Twenty Guineys would un-
 dertake to cure him; and the next Morning he
 was to be brought. But then a new difficulty
 is started; Saller perceiveth that his friend
 of humours he should be extremely troubled to
 get away from him; But the Doctor that had
 a taste for every sort, to help, then bids him
 bring the young man into the Hall, and come
 to him into his Study, and he would let him see

at a back door, and then take his patients into custody when he was gone; This part of the plot being so hopefully laid, to compleat the Tragedy Comedy, away goes Sadler to an eminent Goldsmith that had some small knowledge of this Doctor, and with an insincere civility having paid some recommended complements, tells him the Doctor resolving to furnish himself with a Cabinet of Plate, desired him to send his duty with such odd such things, choosing as much Plate as was worth a hundred pounds, or upwards; The Goldsmith not doubting but to have a good customer, readily consents, and away goes Sadler and the young Prentice; being arrived at the Doctors Hall, he takes the Plate pretending to carry it up to the Doctor and his Lady; and bids the young man walk a turn or two there; when keeping the prize well cover'd under his cloak, he tells the Doctor, he had brought his Kinsman desiring him to use the best of his skill upon him, and he would wait upon him again on the morrow, and so is let out at the back door; The Doctor very gravely comes down, and having taken a serious view of his patient, takes
him

him by the Wrists; and begins to Thumb
 his nose; the Young-man wondering at his
 action, begins at last to inquire for the Gentle-
 man that came with him: At Some distance he
 Thro' the Crowd, found him to be himself; The
 Lord predestin'd to be King, now he laid the plot,
 To kill him, and to reign himself; Give this trea-
 sonable man more, yet shall have your Pleasure, and
 shall make you so well as ever you were in your life;
 The Boy further asking him if he pleas'd to pay
 for a new Jewell Silver Linc, for the Ring, you
 shall have Money enough, to me disburse it: They
 bidding him follow him, he takes him into a
 dark room, and calling some of his Servants,
 falls to bleeding of him justly, and shaves off
 all his Hair: The Youth made many Protesti-
 ons against these Proceedings, telling whose
 Man he was, and how, and upon what account
 he came thither, but all in vain; for they trust-
 ed these discourses, as a braggart's Effron-
 tery, and a disordered Brain; & presently clapt him
 into a Bed contriv'd for the purpose, At which
 his down fall, and over cast, he was surpris'd,
 according to the Method of Art, to rise in his
 perfect Languor, till they had almost made the
 mid fellow

fellow stark Mad in earnest; The Gold Smith hearing no News of his Return; gets up next Morning by break of day; and comes to the Doctor in Quest of him; And then the Cloud was opened, & they fairly perceived how foaly they were Cheated.

CHAP. VII.
Of Sadders first being in Newgate for several
on Pranks, and by what means he shall get off.

TO review All the Rogueries committed by this Eminent Thief, would require a Vol-
lumn, for he was perpetually bigg with some
mischievous design; and his Brains never lay
fallow, unless when he was got into Newgate;
In which Chubbidge he had no less then Fifteen
times taken up his residence, and Six times Con-
demned to dye; Once he got off by the Act of
Grace; another time being Convicted of a Bur-
glary, he Obtained a Pardon; sometimes
thought he bought off his imprisonment, but
he could not be found Guilty; In the year
1675. Being Condemned, he pretended col-
our he Great Discoveries of counterfeit Money
and for that Service was freed; and had no ser-
vul Suspition of his own Guilt, or his own
Bribe.

and worthy Don Instrument in Eubling the World
of Drivse Caterpillars that lived on Rapine, and
the spoils of Honest Industry. Some have Repor-
ted, That in this service he has much gratified his
private Speech, and charged some Persons undi-
rectedly; but that we look upon as a Groundless
Calumny, and therefore shall not batten his
Memory with those Imputations. The rather
for that he had other Faults too many, which he
is now gone to answer for at an All-seeing Tri-
bunal.

CHAP. VIII.
Of the last Grand Burglary, and stealing the Lord
Edwards Chancellours Maes, &c. For which he was
condemned to Death. Once he got off by a Bar-
gain, and another time by a Court of Bar-

BUT now the Squib is run to the end of the
Rope, and the final minute approaching
which must put an end to all our Herlick Pil-
feries and Inventions, yet like a dying Taper to
make a flaring Blaze before he expires, he ven-
tures on a daring Attempt. Flaring? (but I know
not what means) got the knowledge, where the
Lord

Lord High Chancellours Servants usually laid the Mace and Purse, those glorious Insignia or Badges of that illustrious Office, without weighing the danger, or considering the consequence, he resolves to make himself Master of that tempting booty; To this purpose he with two of his confederates about five a clock one Sunday morning were observed by one that Evidenc'd it at their Tryal to be hawking up and down that street, waiting as 'tis supposed an opportunity for putting their design in Execution; but missing of it then, they defer'd the business till the Tuesday night following, and then 'tis thought, getting by a Ladder of ropes into his Lordships Balcony, and thence upon a Ledge jutting out of the wall, to the Window of the Closet where those things were reposit-ed, they broke a pane of Glass, and so opened the Casement, and took away the precious, but fatal prize, valued in the Indictment at One hundred and forty pounds, and being extremely over-joyed at the success, proceeded to that height of insolence and vanity, that as themselves since confess, coming over *Lincolns-Im-Fields*, Sadler would needs have one of his confederates

federates bear the Mace openly on his shoulder,
 and the other the Purse before him, whilst he
 with Hat cock'd, and arms a Kembo, walked af-
 ter it in a strutting Grandeur; But these magni-
 ficent triumphs were short-liv'd; 'Tis a saying;
No less true than antient: quod per dere vult Deus,
dementat prius; When Divine vengeance resolves
 to chastize wicked men, it first insatuates them;
 so it proved in this case; for Sadler and one o-
 ther of his Associates repairing to a Lodging in
Knight-Riders-Street, where they had formerly
 lain; Taking off the Fringe and Jewels from
 the purse, scattered several small peices of the
 Gold about the Chamber, and though they had
 laid up the greatest part of the Mace in the clo-
 set, and taken away the Key of it, yet the Wo-
 mans daughter of the house going up on the
Fryday following when they were all abroad,
 observing the floor strewed with these illustri-
 ous spangles, and withal finding three or four
 small scattered pearls, could not forbear the
 curiosity of putting back the closet-lock with a
 small knife, where to her amazement she found
 the Mace; the Coronet or upper part whereof,
 her Ignorance mistaking for the Royal Dia-
 dem,

dem, she passionately calls up her Mother, telling her, *The Gentlemen had got the Kings Crown in the Closet*; but the good woman advising with one of her neighbours, was soon informed of my Lords loss, and as speedily gave him Intelligence what she had found; Hereupon a Watch being set, a woman coming to Inquire for them was first taken, and next day the three men, Saddler being apprehended by a single man unarm'd in the Street without the least resistance.

CHAP. VIII.

Of his Condemnation, Carriage in Prison, and Execution.

AT his Tryal he appeared very gay in cloaths, and no less impudent in his behaviour, yet confessed the fact; and when condemned, flung his Hat into Court, and his Wigg another away; acting like one Distracted; In person he seemed to have little sense of his desperate condition, but gave himself to Drinking of Sack; and 'tis said, being called from his cups to come to prayers, swore the Parson must stay till his Glas was out; In a Word his end was not unsuitable to his life: To whose unhappy Memory, a Friend of mine desired this following Epitaph.

EPITAPH

Here Sadler lies! Reader! come not too near,
The nimble Ghost may pillen still, we fear,
His Presence Fifteen times did Newgate grace,
But Dy'd Opprest with a too Ponderous Mass;
So us'd to make all Doors before him flye,
His very Coffin deca'd a Burglary,
And Pluto fears he'l Jilt his Treasury.

FINIS.